GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2015
National Social Assistance Programme
Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is administering the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) through its various schemes so as to provide social security to various sections of the society including differently abled persons and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of differently abled persons covered under NSAP and the funds disbursed thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State and scheme-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted for selection of different abled persons for availing the benefit under the programme;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to bring down the eligibility criteria from 80% disability to 10% disability; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons likely to be benefitted as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 356 for reply on 13th August, 2015 by Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati.

(a): This Ministry is administering National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP) under which pension /assistance is provided to old aged , widows and disabled persons belonging to the households living Below Poverty Line (BPL) on fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Government of India. NSAP comprises of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme(NFBS) and Annapurna. Salient features of these schemes are enclosed as Annexure-I.

(b): Schemes under NSAP have been converted into a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) from the financial year 2014-15 and funds are now released Scheme- wise. However, prior to 2014-15 schemes under NSAP were under State Plan and funds for NSAP were released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States by the Ministry of Finance/Home Affairs to States/Union Territories respectively in a combined manner for all the schemes under NSAP. Details of number of beneficiaries covered and funds released by the Central Government under IGNDPS for the last three years and current year , State /UT-wise are at Annexure-II.

(c): Persons belonging to BPL households suffering from severe or multiple disabilities are eligible for benefits under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS). For the purpose of defining sever or multiple disabilities the following legal provisions are followed:

- As per Section 56(4) of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (PWD) Act, 95), "persons with severe disability" means a person with 80% or more of one or more disabilities.

- As per Section 2(h) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999(National Trust Act, 1999) " Multiple Disabilities" means combination of 2 or more disabilities.

(d) & (e): At present, the Government is not contemplating to bring down the eligibility criteria from existing 80% disability to 10% disability under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 356 for reply on 13-08-2015.

Salient features of the schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

(i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Pension / Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month is provided to persons in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs. 500/- per month to persons of 80 years and above belonging to BPL households.

(ii) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): Under the scheme pension/ Central assistance @ Rs. 300/- per month is provided to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years belonging to BPL households. On reaching the age of 80 years, the beneficiaries is shifted to IGNOAPS to get enhance assistance of Rs.500/- per month.

(iii) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): Under the scheme pension / Central assistance @ Rs. 300/- per month is provided to persons aged 18-79 years with severe and multiple disabilities belonging to BPL households. On reaching the age of 80 years, the beneficiaries is shifted to IGNOAPS to get enhance assistance of Rs.500/- per month.

(iv) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under the scheme a BPL household is entitled to lump sum amount of money on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 59 years. The amount of assistance is Rs. 20,000/-.

(v) Annapurna: Under the scheme, 10 kg of food grains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible, are not receiving old age pension.